

OFFICIAL

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RI 02865

DATE: October 18, 2004

TIME: 7:00 p.m. – Monthly Meeting – Open

PLACE: Lincoln High School Library

135 Old River Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Barr, Chair; Erin Casey, Vice Chair; Gerard St. Germain, Clerk; Susan McClain; Jeffrey Weiss

ADMINISTRATORS IN ATTENDANCE: James A. DiPrete, Interim Superintendent; Linda Newman, Assistant Superintendent; Georgia Fortunato; Angelo Mencucci, Ben Scungio, Esq. Lori Miller was at a conference.

OPENING CEREMONY

ACTIONS WHICH WERE TAKEKN

Mr. Barr said there was one vote to take out of Executive Session and that was to honor the request to raise the Child Outreach Screeners salary to \$10/hr. Motion to approve Casey. Seconded by St. Germain. Discussion by McClain. Request for Child Outreach screeners' salary

increase was unbudgeted. This item should have been discovered when doing budgets for last year. We have no choice but to grant the increase because the screeners are refusing to screen. We have no intention of entertaining further requests of this nature. Affects the budget by about \$1,500. All members voted to approve. Motion carried.

RIGHT TO BE HEARD –

Ed Slattery. 1. Superintendent Salary – Thinks it will be a considerable amount of money to hire a superintendent. 2. Doesn't understand about opening the contract for present administrators' salaries. He does not think the Committee should open up the contracts. Should be left up to upcoming School Committee. 3. Building Committee – Concerned about the fact that we have only one person that was elected at the Town Financial Meeting. McClain said we have a full complement of people. Mrs. Shepard made the decision to appoint.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. September 13, 2004 Executive Session minutes. Motion to approve by Casey. Seconded by St. Germain. All members voted to approve. Motion carried. Motion to seal Executive Session minutes by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. All members voted to approve. Motion carried.

b. September 13, 2004 Monthly Meeting. Minor correction. The word “bedded” on page 2, item #3, the word should be “vetted”. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. All members voted to approve. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE – McClain received correspondence from Steve Woerner, Finance Director of the Town of Lincoln to Lori Miller. See attached. Also received correspondence from Ken Booth, Chairman of Budget Board. Would like to have letters read into the record. DiPrete said there are meetings that are being arranged for this Wednesday, 10/20/04. There is one at 9:00am with the IRS. The individual met with DiPrete briefly and said things were okay. There was also a meeting on Wednesday at 10:30am to go over the preparation of the audit. McClain said Woerner said the State Education Aide is being withheld because the retirement accounting has not been done. DiPrete also spoke with Cheryl Ethier with Lori Miller and discussed the status of the capital budget, what has been expended, etc., and later DiPrete discussed the topic with Angelo Mencucci who had a lot of that information. Ethier will receive information by Wednesday.

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Letter from Budget Board was also read into the record. (See

attached). Offered Ken Booth the opportunity to speak. To date, a management audit of the Town financial system and school financial system has not been done. It has a deadline of December 31st. We put it on for the voters to decide. The last three of four years, the audit management letters for both the Town and the school have been not very generous in their praise. Booth said information on accounting system should be readily available, monthly.

Casey said that Booth probably spoke all School Committee members individually and realizes now that the administrative salary increase will not be acted on right away. It is in the discovery stage.

Barr added that we have a very good relationship with the Budget Board. Barr asked that our financial office, as well as, Mr. DiPrete meet with the subcommittee as soon as they can. McClain said is very relieved to hear that the School Committee's position is not to reopen those contracts, however, she is concerned that in the research process, we have put together aside two open administrative contracts for whatever reason. McClain would suggest to the Committee that we need to get that done as soon as possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Update on School Construction Project

DiPrete asked for McClain's input and also Mencucci's. DiPrete discussed SMART schools and Green schools. Gilbane was one of the people interested, as well. He had an opportunity to address that

group as a person who was wearing two hats. Wanted particular group to come in with no cost to the district and I gave that information to Angelo Mencucci. DiPrete is chair of Board of Regents. They approve for construction the proposals that come before them. Before DiPrete knew he was working here, we did approve the construction of this particular project. We are talking about lighting and about those extra things that help kids perform better when they're working in a better atmosphere.

McClain said the community will be pleasantly surprised that the architect, AI3, is really up to speed on Green buildings and efficient buildings. MSBC continues to meet on a weekly basis. AI3 is 65 to 70% done with their design documents. The architect's estimates differ considerably from the project manager's estimates. Documents will be submitted to contractors for a once over to give us some assurance on what numbers are acceptable. All permitting is in process, applications have been forwarded to the Town Zoning Board, the Planning Board, and DEM is involved at this point. The traffic study is complete, the land is complete, they were signing on the last piece of land on Thursday. The architects have completed all their consultation work with the teachers, the administrators, and the BLT. Still on target for opening September 2006.

2. Enrollment Report.

We currently have 3,660 students. We do have a couple of areas where we are just at the top. We have a third grade where we have

two or three different classes that are at the top level. We are watching that very carefully to make sure the teaching and the learning process are taking place. If problems don't work out with principal, teacher is to report to an ad hoc committee which consists of Assistant Superintendent, Linda Newman and our Special Educator Director, Georgia Fortunato. Barr is concerned about grade three at Central at 26, 25, and 27. Barr argues that we look into getting some relief through aides or 19 ³/₄ hour people to really help kids in those classes. Casey wants to make sure the staff is Central is being utilized to the max. Believes we are starting a bad precedent. We do not have the money in the budget. Weiss said with the No Child Left Behind legislation at Northern for example, we no longer have the option of allowing kids to fall behind. McClain concurs with Casey and thinks that we would set a difficult precedent if we start automatically looking to increase resources to a class that are unbudgeted for. Julie Zito said the particular three grade class that is being talked about has not aides. There are no special needs students in that class.

2. Superintendent Search Update

Barr said we have convened two focus groups with NESDEC. We had the paper screening the last meeting and we have set up interviews beginning Tuesday, October 19, 2004 and Friday, October 22, 2004. We have a very strong pool of candidates. A paper screening has yielded five or six candidates.

3. Request for one-on-one teacher assistant

DiPrete said numbers four and five on the agenda should be taken together. The first request is for a one-on-one teacher assistant. This is in the special education area that was unbudgeted. The second request is for a full-time resource teacher position also in special education. Fortunato presented case. Two IEPs were developed at Fairlawn. One a.m. and one p.m. student. Fortunato asked School Committee to approve her request for one full-time teacher assistant. Weiss asked Fortunato if she reviewed the IEPs. She said yes. Casey asked what happens next year. We will have students full time. We'll need two different people next year. Is it better to have to half times this year? Fortunato, said no because she will be losing students at the high school who will be graduating and those people will bump in and bid into position at the elementary schools. Motion to accept the teacher assistant unbudgeted by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. McClain asked how bad it affects the budget. The other TAs receive \$9/hr. Motion carried.

1.0 Resource teacher position

Northern has two resource teachers now; however, due to School Choice, we need to raise the bar. Children should be in the least restrictive setting. Integrated classes are not enough. There are more resource teachers at Central. Casey asked why this wasn't put into

the budget last year. Resources teachers helped last year at the ELC. Weiss asked if a 19 ³/₄ person could be put in place now until something is put into the budget. Fortunato said no. She needs a certified staff member in order to provide the instruction. She suggested amending the CRP. The amendment is due October 29th. She will contact the DOE for preliminary approval. Motion to approve contingent upon funding by St. Germain. Seconded McClain. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Request for .5 Medicaid Census Clerk

DiPrete withdrew from agenda. He will be looking at the total operation of personnel and budgeting with Lori to determine how best we can deliver all of the programs.

7. Change of School Committee Meeting Dates

Change from February 21st and May 9th. McClain suggested new committee in January choose meeting dates. November 15th meeting will be rescheduled to November 22nd. Motion to approve by Weiss. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Saturday School

Weiss and Macksoud discussed Saturday School. Weiss discussed NCLB. We need to target the at risk children directly. Weiss asked Macksoud to speak to the program. Central Falls did a clinical practice school for three years. Purchased practice New Standards tests in English Language Arts and Math. They targeted

approximately 100 to 120 students that were at standard or just below the standard. Students came to school for 30 hours on Saturdays, 10 teachers were involved (teachers were paid their hourly rate). Our test scores went up approximately 20 to 25%. Macksoud's original plan for Lincoln is to offer 40 hours of instruction for about 125 eighth graders. He would like to see half of the students for 20 hours taking the English Language Arts, and, then for the second 20 hours, in math. The drawback to all of this is that this is the last year New Standards tests will be given, yet, we are still being judged by this.

Weiss asked how do we get the kids to school. Macksoud said they had given rewards. The cost of the practice would be about \$1,500 for 100 – 125 tests. Teachers' salaries are biggest cut. All together it would be about \$15,000. Weiss said DiPrete would have to identify the funds internally. Test comes up in March. St. Germain asked Fortunato if there were still any Title I funds at Northern. Newman said we cannot use it. Weiss request approval of \$10,000 for funding for Saturday School Program to be used at the middle school and at least one other elementary school. Seconded by Casey. Discussion by St. Germain. Agrees with Jeff statement, however, we only one other school that's in dire trouble. He said Northern and Weiss said Saylesville also.

McClain discussed afterschool program at Saylesville. Kids were invited to be part of an afterschool ramp up for testing. Does this still go on? Newman said they have the option but doesn't know what's in

place at Saylesville. McClain asked if this is not being, can money that can allocated for this. Newman said yes. DiPrete will look to see what's available with Administrative staff. Barr asked what if we don't have the money?

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Macksoud suggested having the PTA put the word out to local organizations, i.e., Fidelity. All in favor. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Newman discussed draft life of school ratings in the State Assessments. There is a workshop on Wednesday to interpret the data. She will give a full report at the November School Committee meeting.

Teacher Evaluation Tool reduced the N2 and N3 rating to one. At the recommendation of the Committee, she went back to the drawing table and come up with a checklist that could streamline the process but keep the current evaluation in place. Motion to approve by Casey. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bullying Policy. Barr wants to make sure we are in compliance with state law. She attached to the bullying policy a complete implementation plan on how to roll this out to the teachers and to administrators. Barr wants to make sure we have professional

development to teachers. Motion to approve first reading of Bullying Policy by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor. Motion carried.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Reported out DiPrete. Report was sent out to Woerner.

CIVIC USE OF BUILDINGS – None

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Resignations

a. Rebecca Coia From: Cross Country Coach – HS

22 Twins Lane Effective: September 20, 2004

North Providence, RI 02904

b. Sarah Leidecker From: 1.0 Math – HS

154 Friendly Road Effective: tbd

Cranston, RI 02910

Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. McClain asked about the effective date re: Sarah Leidecker. Is this person planning in the position until we find a replacement? DiPrete said yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Retirement

**a. Richard Ferrante From: School Psychologist – Northern/NELC
4 Waring Circle Effective: October 24, 2004
Worcester, MA 01609**

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Leave of Absence Requests

**a. Karen Costa From: Grade 4 teacher – Central
59 Belvedere Drive Effective: December 6, 2004 – January 14, 2005
(paid)
Bristol, RI 02809 January 18, 2005 to end of school year (unpaid)
Maternity/childrearing**

**b. Norma Higginbottom From: Secretary II – HS Library
81 Parker Street Effective: September 21, 2004 to November 3, 2004
(paid) Medical
Lincoln, R 02865**

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**c. Beth Machado From: Grade 2 teacher – Northern
4 Mallard Cove Way Effective: December 7, 2004 to January 18, 2005
(paid)
Barrington, RI 02806 January 19, 2005 to April 27, 2005 (unpaid)**

**d. Kelly Marini From: Grade 1 teacher – Fairlawn
196 Old River Road, Unit 2FS Effective: January 3, 2005 to January 25,
2005 (unpaid)
Lincoln, RI 02865 January 26, 2005 to March 9, 2005 (paid)
March 10, 2005 to end of school year (unpaid)**

**e. Maryann Murray From: Teacher Assistant – MS
30 Main Street Effective: October 26, 2004 to January 31, 2005 (paid)
Medical
Manville, RI 02838**

**f. Marilyn Yergeau From: Teacher Assistant – HS
20 Oakcrest Drive Effective: September 20, 2004 to October 1, 2004
(unpaid)
North Providence, RI 02904**

**McClain requests to take vote on Beth Machado be taken separately.
Motion to approve all leaves except Machado's by Weiss. Seconded
by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve Beth Machado's leave by St. Germain. Second for
discussion by Casey. This is a job share. DiPrete suggests tabling
this request. Attorney Scungio said this discussion should be held in
Executive Session. Weiss' motion withdrawn, St. Germain's motion
withdrawn. Motion to table by McClain. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Co-Curricular Appointments

- a. Jennifer Belvin To: Co-Newspaper Advisor – HS
115 Sprague Hill Road Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Chepachet, RI 02814 Salary: \$787.50**
- b. Kristen Jalbert To: Co-Newspaper Advisor – HS
48 Peckham Road Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Little Compton, RI 02837 Salary: 787.50**
- c. Mary McGuinn To: LEP Coordinator
33 Connors Farm Drive Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Smithfield, RI 02917 Salary: \$4,115**
- d. Kathleen Moylan To: .2 HS Reform Initiative Coordinator
22 Breeze Drive Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Worcester, MA 01602 Salary: \$10,583.84 (MA Step 10)**
- d. Eileen Rapose To: .2 HS Reform Initiative Coordinator
52 Malden Street Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Cranston, RI 02910 Salary: \$14,800.00 (MA+45 Step 10)**
- d. Melissa Smith To: .4 CIM Coordinator
3 Cardinal Road Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Cranston, RI 02921 Salary: \$24,960.00 (BA Step 10)**

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Casey asked if all the positions were budgeted for. DiPrete said he spoke with Principal of high school who said the HS Reform Initiative Coordinator position was under the Smaller Learning Grant and Newman said the CIM position was budgeted. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor. Motion carried.

Teacher Appointment

**a. Genna Cookson To: 1.0 Psychologist – Northern/NELC
8 View Street Effective: October 25, 2004**

Providence, RI 02908 Salary: \$33,564.76 (CAGS Step 2)

**Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Non-Certified Appointment

a. John Stevens To: Accounting Technician

634 Killingly Street Effective: November 1, 2004

Johnston, RI 02919 Salary: \$15.54/hr.

Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Teacher Assistant Appointments

**a. Diane Elofson To: 15 hr. Grade 1 Teacher Assistant – NELC
7 Blue Mist Drive Effective: October 19, 2004
Manville, RI 02838 Salary: \$9.00/hr.**

**b. Alice Lasalandra To: 15 hr. 1:1 Teacher Assistant – NELC
9 Russell Lane Effective: October 19, 2004
Smithfield, RI 02917 Salary: \$9.00/hr.**

**c. Erica Warrington To: 15 hr. K Teacher Assistant – NELC
109 North Main Street Effective: October 19, 2004
Slatersville, RI 02876 Salary: \$9.00/hr.**

Cased asked if these were budgeted position. Yes they are. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Long-Term Substitute Appointment

**a. Cynthia Carter To: LTS English, Grade 7 – MS
264 Fruit Hill Avenue Effective: September 24, 2004 end of school
year
North Providence, RI 02911 Salary: \$35,721.92 (BA Step 3)**

**b. Jennifer DePalma To: LTS Psychologist – Central/Fairlawn
384 Rocky Hill Road Effective: October 25, 2004 to end of school
year
Scituate, RI 02857 Salary: \$35,650.47 (CAGS Step 3)**

**b. Carol Mowry To: LTS Spanish – HS
140 Rhode Avenue Effective: September 3, 2004 – January 21, 2005
Woonsocket, RI 02895 Salary: \$21,243.77 (BA Step 3)
Motion to approve by Casey. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

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Doctor/Dentist Appointments

**a. Dr. George Resnevic To: School Dentist
895 Putnam Pike (Rte. 44) Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year
Chepachet, RI 02814 Salary: \$4,130.00**

**b. Dr. Robert Burke To: School Physician
Memorial Hospital Effective: 2004 – 2005 school year**

111 Brewster Street Salary: \$5,182.00

Pawtucket, RI 02860

Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss and Casey. McClain said she is concerned over the cost. We have solicited the people who have served in these positions to see if they wanted to “re-up”. Is concerned that we don’t solicit any other people who might be interested who might able to do it at a lesser cost. Can we do that in the future? DiPrete said yes we can. He knows it is difficult to find physicians who will do this but certainly we can call others. Motion to approve by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. McClain voted no. Motion carried.

AWARDING OF BIDS

Lincoln High School Bleachers – UltiPlay Parks & Playgrounds, Inc. Motion to approve by Weiss. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried. McClain asked why four vendors came in and one came back. Mencucci said we had a \$20,000 expenditure. The price of steal is skyrocketing. This is too small for most vendors to bid. McClain wants to make sure we are not settling for something that we should not be settling for. Mencucci said UltiPlay will meet standards.

SALARY WARRANTS

School Payroll (Local Budget) 10/7/04 \$ 979,288.54 School Payroll (Local Budget) 9/23/04 \$983,546.06

Perkins Grant (867,868) \$ 1,506.85

Reading Excellence (011) \$ 5,282.31

Professional Development \$ 239.31 Reading Excellence (011) \$ 5,282.31

Class Size Reduction 815 \$ 2,941.54 Class Size Reduction 815 \$ 2,941.54

Title I 825 \$ 10,291.47 Title I 825 \$ 9,199.49

Title II 866 \$ Title II 866 \$

Title IV 878 \$ Title IV 878 \$

IDEA Part B 850 \$ 26,680.80 IDEA Part B 850 \$ 29,203.54

Preschool Sec. 619 888 \$ 1,506.85 Preschool Sec. 619 888 \$ 1,380.64

JANCI 817 \$ 580.00 JANCI 817 \$

Grand Total \$1,028,317.67 Grand Total \$1,031,553.58

Motion to approve 10/7/04 warrants by St. Germain. Seconded by Casey. McClain said the amount seemed really high compared to the other bi-weekly pays. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve 9/23/04 warrants by St. Germain. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor. Motion carried.

School Payroll (Local Budget) 9/9/04 \$1,117,180.88

Reading Excellence (011) \$ 5,282.31

Professional Development \$ 1,000.00

Class Size Reduction 815 \$ 1,520.77

Title I 825 \$ 13,409.04

Title II 866 \$

Title IV 878 \$

IDEA Part B 850 \$ 19,192.01

Preschool Sec. 619 888 \$ 1,380.64

JANCI 817 \$

Grand Total \$1,158,965.65

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**Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Casey. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

EXPENSE WARRANTS

Invoices for Approval – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Invoices Paid in Advance 010 Operating Budget \$164,859.66

Total \$164,859.66

**Motion by Casey to approve. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Invoices Paid in Advance

010 Operating Budget \$59,256.28

Invoices for Payment

010 Operating Budget \$1,091,843.26

013 Accounts Payable \$4,511.78

019 Professional Development \$ 3,855.08

818 RI Medical Assistance \$ 6,282.06

868 Perkins Grant – HS \$ 325.00

890 JNCI Grant \$ 25,653.69

Total 2004/05 Invoices \$1,132,470.87

Grand Total Invoices \$1,191,727.15

Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Weiss. All in favor.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Bullying Policy – 1st reading was done by Linda Newman under Assistant Superintendent's Report and will be placed on the November agenda for a second reading.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Susan Kelly, a parent from Central Elementary. Is a third grade volunteer. Twenty-six children in a class is very high. She feels that last year the parents complained to the principal and more or less it was between our class and another class. What will happen next year when their test scores are affected? She feels we need to look into putting an aide in Central Elementary.

John Zangari asked if we had additional information of what is cost

the School Choice students to different schools. Mencucci said to his knowledge we have not assumed any extra cost. They have been very creative. Zangari asked if there will be a public forum on the Superintendent Search as we have had in previous years. Yes. Zangari believes Saturday School should start in the lower grades.

Benny Sisto wondered if there were no funding by the School Department or the Town for Saturday School could it be a voluntary contribution by the parents. Could we borrow money from the parents. If the child succeeds in the program, we could pay back the parents.

Motion by St. Germain to adjourn. Seconded by Casey. All members voted to approve. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

GERARD ST. GERMAIN, CLERK DATE